

VISIT TO INDIANA
1844

DRAWER 9

WHIG LEADER

71.2021.0125.24001



Abraham Lincoln's Political Career Through 1860

Visit to Indiana, 1844

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



After Groundhog day which is the 2nd, comes Linchols Birthday on the twelfth which is generally observed throughout the state Daviess county should feel a particular interest in the celebration of Linchols Birthday. Not many people know that Abraham Lincoln was admitted to practice law at the Daviess County bar. John Van-Trees who was the first clerk to the Circuit Court swore him in and he took the oath to support the constitution of the United States and the state of Indiana and incidentally made a rousing speech on the tariff question while here at that time. *Odon Journal 2-9-1917*

1844 VISIT

in speech in Court house
another at Jentry vells in Blackwells
and in Carter Bowyer School House

Staid at night at the Sargent
House at ~~Springfield~~ Peckport
wrote poetry follow sent

Amstey letters 18 p 58.

Smith made Turry speech in
Washington bldg old Clinton man a
spring it is now at corner of 3rd + main

1st day at Rockport

1st night at camp near Selwin

2nd day at Vashel at Jonesboro with Jones

2nd night spent with Jones

3rd day spent about dozen east of Lead Lake etc

Elkton, Jan, 1890

The Posey County Historical Society held a meeting January 30 in the city building at Mt. Vernon. The following officers were elected: Mrs. B. O. Hanby, Mt. Vernon, president; Mrs. Charles T. Johnson, Mt. Vernon, vice-president; Mrs. R. R. Schultz, Mt. Vernon, secretary-curator; Miss Louise Husband, New Harmony, treasurer. Miss Husband, who is assistant librarian of the New Harmony library, gave an excellent report on "Posey County Libraries," and Mrs. H. B. Fitton read a paper prepared by James F. Davis of Mt. Vernon, based on the address of Abraham Lincoln at the Grafton bridge. Mrs. Nora Fretageot of New Harmony spoke on the "Rappite Rooming House No. 2," which is now the Fretageot store in New Harmony, and a paper prepared by Mrs. Annie Larkin on "The Temperance Movement in Mt. Vernon and Posey County" was read by Mrs. Douglas Jones.

Local Historian Believes Lincoln Made Speech Here

Evansville Journal
3-4-28

It may have been that Abe Lincoln, the whig, came to Evansville the night of November 1, 1844, and spoke in favor of Henry Clay for president; that is the opinion of George Honig, treasurer of the Southwestern Indiana Historical society, a sculptor of Lincoln, who has received a copy of The Indiana Herald, November 1, 1844, Rockport, Ind., edited by James C. Veatch, from the editor and publisher of the Grandview Monitor, Charles T. Baker.

In the Herald is the following account of Lincoln at Rockport:

"Mr. Lincoln of Springfield, Ill., addressed a large and respectable audience at the courthouse Wednesday evening last (this in Friday's issue) upon the whig policy. His main argument was directed in pointing out the advantage of a protective tariff. He handled the subject in a manner that done honor to himself and the whig cause. Other subjects were investigated in a like manner. His speech was plain, argumentative and an hour's duration. When he closed, Mr. J. Pitcher (John Pitcher, later judge of the district court, father of General Pitcher of the War of 1812) arose and delivered a speech in his forcible and powerful manner. He exhibited the democratic policies in an unenviable light, at least so we thought."

SPEAKING IN POSEY

Lincoln was on a speaking tour of Posey county at the time of the newspaper article. He had spoken, so records show, at Buffaloville (near Lincoln City), at Jonesboro, (near Gentryville), and at Rockport. From that point his itinerary becomes a matter of speculation. This is Honig's idea, and Honig has been endeavoring to trace Lincoln's Indiana history for some months:

Lincoln left Rockport and went to Boonville to speak for Clay, and this belief is tenable because Boonville was the home of John A. Breckenridge, from whom Lincoln had borrowed law books when he was a boy living at what is now Lincoln City. Lincoln apparently was at Boonville on the last day of October, and it is presumed by Honig that Lincoln came to Evansville to address a whig meeting here on November 1.

The announcement for the meeting in Evansville was contained in The Evansville Journal, under date of October 31, and was as follows:

"There will be a meeting of the Clay Whig club at the courthouse Friday (November 1). Every good whig, and democrat also, is invited to be present. Several speeches will be made and business of importance transacted. Meeting at early candle light.

"Come one, come all.

"I. KEAN, Secretary."

PITCHER IS MENTIONED

Perhaps Lincoln addressed the meeting just mentioned; it is the belief of Honig that he did. Lincoln, traveling a horse, so Honig believes, went from Evansville on November 1 and up into Posey county, ending his horseback itinerary at Springfield, Ill., on November 4, in time to vote in the presidential election.

The mention of John Pitcher in the Herald item Honig regards as significant. Pitcher, besides being a judge, was one of the first postmasters at Rockport. Lincoln had borrowed books from him.

1844 NEWSPAPER WITH LINCOLN SPEECH FOUND

EVANSVILLE, Ind., March 5.—A copy of the Indiana Herald, published Nov. 1, 1844, at Rockport by James C. Veatch, which carries the account of an address there by Abraham Lincoln in the interest of the Whig party, is in the hands of George Honig, local sculptor, treasurer of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society. According to Mr. Honig Lincoln was touring Posey county at that time in the interest of the Whig campaign and spoke at Buffaloville, near Lincoln City; at Jonesboro, near Gentryville, and at Rockport. Mr. Honig believes that while on this tour Lincoln also spoke at Boonville in the interest of Henry Clay and also at Evansville.

FROM ROCKPORT HERALD

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dean called Tuesday morning and left with us for a few days a copy of The Herald, published in Rockport, Ind., November 1, 1844, with James C. Veatch, editor. The contents are very largely political, and announces that Henry Clay ran for president, T. Frelinghuysen for vice president, and state electors were Henry S. Lane, of Montgomery and Joseph G. Marshall, of Jefferson; John A. Brackenridge, of Warrick county, was an elector from the first district.

Among the items is the following paragraph: Mr. Lincoln, of Springfield, Ill., addressed a large and respectable audience at the court house on Wednesday evening last, upon the whig policy. His main argument was directed in pointing out the advantages of a Protective Tariff. He handled that subject in a manner that done honor to himself and the whig cause. Other objects were investigated in like manner. His speech was plain, argumentative and of an hour's duration. When he closed, Mr. J. Pitcher arose and delivered a speech in his forcible and powerful manner. He exhibited the democratic policies in an unenviable light, at least we thought so.

There is also an account of the boiler explosion on the steamer, Lucy Walker, near New Albany, with great loss of life.



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**Receives Copy of Paper
Containing Lincoln Speech**

Indpls News 3-5-28
[Special to The Indianapolis News]

EVANSVILLE, Ind., March 5.—George Honig, Evansville sculptor, and treasurer of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society, has received a copy of the Indiana Herald for November 1, 1844, edited and published by James C. Veatch, at Rockport. The paper, yellow and brittle with age, gives an account of a speech of Abarham Lincoln, who it calls "Mr. Lincoln, of Springfield, Ill."

The account of the address says: "His main argument was directed in pointing out the advantages of a protective tariff. He handled the subject in a manner that did honor to himself and the Whig cause. His speech was plain, argumentative and an hour's duration. When he closed J. Pitcher [John Pitcher, later judge of the district court] made a speech in his forceful and powerful manner. He exhibited the Democratic policies in an unenviable light, at least so we thought."

Lincoln was on a speaking tour of Posey county at the time the article was printed.



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JAMES H. BLACKBURN
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW
MOUNT VERNON, INDIANA

July 17, 1931

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Editor of Lincoln Lore
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

I want you to know that I appreciate receiving Lincoln Lore as it is published. I find that it keeps me wide awake on the subject that has interested me deeply for many years.

Your book "Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood" has been in my library since 1926 and I prize it as one of the best of my Lincoln Books.


If you know, or ever find out, from what point or locality in Illinois, Lincoln started on his trip to Spencer County, Indiana, in the fall of 1844, I wish you would tell me about it. There is a tradition that he came through Posey County and Mt. Vernon on that trip, and that he made a speech to some farmers gathered at a saw mill and lumber camp in this county, but I have not been able to get anything authentic. He was out on a trip making speeches for Clay when he went to Rockport and Gentryville, and if he was as far south as Carmi, Shawneetown, McLeansboro, or Fairfield in Illinois, he doubtless would have come through our county.

If I can get anything to justify the tradition, I want to get a suitable marker placed where he is supposed to have made the speech. We have no Lincoln Marker, of any kind, in Posey County and this incident comes nearest to being specific cause for erecting one. However, Judge John Pitcher, who supplied Lincoln with his first law books, when at Rockport, moved to this town about the time that the Lincolns went to Illinois and lived and died here as an able lawyer and Judge.

Again thanking you for Lincoln Lore, I am,

Very truly yours,

JHB:LR



July 21, 1931

Mr. J. H. Blackburn
Mount Vernon, Indiana

My dear Mr. Blackburn:

I regret very much indeed that I cannot give you some definite information about the point which Lincoln touched in Southern Indiana in 1844 after he left Spencer County.

We know that he came by the way of Bruceville, Vincennes, probably Washington, and that he spoke at Rockport, Lincoln City, Booneville, and undoubtedly other centers of population.

It is not likely that he returned to Illinois the same way he came and I think it quite probable that he, as you suggest, would return through Southern Illinois, which would bring him through Posey County.

I will make a note of your query and will let you know if I discover any data which supports the tradition about Lincoln speaking in your county.

Very sincerely yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:EB

July 22, 1921

Mr. J. E. Haddock
Hemp Harbor, Virginia
My dear Mr. Haddock:

I regret very much indeed that I cannot give
you more definite information about the point which I have
indicated in my letter of June 15, 1921. I am sorry to hear
that you are ill.

We have been in the way of Haddockville,
Virginia, recently. I have been in the way of
Haddockville, Virginia, and Haddockville, Virginia,
and Haddockville, Virginia.

It is not likely that we will be able to
give you any more definite information about
the point which I have indicated in my letter of
June 15, 1921. I am sorry to hear that you are ill.

I will send you a letter which will give you
more definite information about the point which I have
indicated in my letter of June 15, 1921. I am sorry to hear
that you are ill.

Very sincerely yours,

W. E. Haddock
Haddockville, Virginia

W. E. Haddock

Lincolnia

WANTED—Old copies of Rockport Herald or Sentinel containing Lincoln history. Will give one dollar each for the loan of acceptable copy.—The Monitor, Grandview.

10-28-34
**LINCOLN SPOKE FOR CLAY
IN SPENCER CO. 90 YEARS AGO**

Ninety years ago next week Abraham Lincoln was making political speeches in this county for Henry Clay, candidate for president on the Whig ticket, against James K. Polk, on the Democrat ticket. According to the Rockport Herald of Friday, November 1, 1844, he spoke at Rockport on the preceeding Wednesday—October 30—and the notation in that issue concerning the meeting is as follows:

“Mr. Lincoln, of Springfield, Ill., addressed a large and respectable audience at the court house on Wednesday evening last, upon the whig policy. His main argument was directed in pointing out the advantages of a protective tariff. He handled that subject in a manner that done honor to himself and the whig cause. Other subjects were investigated in like manner.—His speech was plain, argumentive and of an hours’ duration.—When he closed, Mr. J. Pitcher arose and delivered a speech in his forcible and powerful manner.—He exhibited the Democratic policies in an unenviable light, at least we thought so.”

James C. Veatch, the editor and publisher of The Herald, was at that time auditor of Spencer county.

Election day was the next Monday, according to The Herald.

Tradition gives that he also made similar addresses at Buffaloville on the 29th and at Gentryville (likely) on Saturday night, November 2, as he was a guest in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Grigsby, Jr., for dinner on October 30th and for the night of October 31st.

The letter he wrote to David Turnham several years later mentions the speech at “the cross roads voting place” on election day. This “cross roads” was likely near the northeast corner of the “short eighty” acres his father bought from John Carter, and the road leads north to Dale.

The Herald also states, “Whigs everywhere, do your duty—bring out your strength—see that no fraudulent votes are polled—be active, and preserve the peace and order at the ballot boxes.”

This historical feature will be very briefly presented at Rockport next Wednesday in connection with the dedication of the sculptural mural of Abraham Lincoln’s Forest College, a work of art by George H. Honig, the Rockport sculptor.

Prof. Ross V. Lockridge, of Indiana University and Dr. Stewart W. McClelland, president of Lincoln Memorial College, of Harrogate Tenn., are to be the principal speakers of the program of that day—next week Wednesday.



LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 550

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

October 23, 1939

LINCOLN CAMPAIGNS FOR CLAY

Ninety-five years ago at this season Abraham Lincoln, a presidential elector of Illinois, was actively engaged in campaigning for Henry Clay. Lincoln even went into Indiana on a speaking itinerary, thinking that he might help the Whig cause in the community where he lived as a growing boy.

For one quarter of his life Lincoln resided in Spencer county, Indiana, moving there with his parents when he was seven years of age and remaining until he was twenty-one, at which time the family migrated to Illinois. He had not visited his boyhood home for fourteen years until he appeared there as a speaker for Clay.

The Abraham Lincoln who came back to visit his old friends was now a married man with one child and he owned a home in Springfield. Just a month before his visit he had formed a new legal alliance, withdrawing as junior partner of the Logan-Lincoln law firm and becoming the senior member of the Lincoln-Herndon partnership.

Lincoln made several addresses in Indiana, visiting Vincennes, Bruceville, Washington, Rockport, Carter Township, Gentryville, Boonville, and Evansville. On October 30 he spoke in the Spencer County Court House at Rockport, and the local newspaper made favorable mention of his address.

It was at Gentryville, however, that he must have met most of his old friends and among them was William Jones who had greatly influenced Abraham's own political thinking.

The Clay campaign was one of the most unusual political contests in early American history. On one ticket was Clay who probably had a larger personal following than any other man of his day. He was opposed by Polk who had few personal admirers, and also by one other candidate in the field.

It is very difficult in this modern day to appreciate the unusual loyalty which was displayed by the followers of Clay. Lincoln called him "My beau ideal of a statesman," and he found in his old friend William Jones of Gentryville one who was even more enthusiastic about Clay than he was, if that were possible. In *The Evansville Daily Journal* for July 19, 1860 there is a story of Jones' physical collapse after the defeat of Clay which is a good example of the great disappointment which came over so many of the voters.

"William Jones is an old citizen of the county who has taken little active part in politics since the Clay and Polk campaign and who on learning of the defeat of his favorite in that memorable contest was for several days incapacitated for attending to his usual business."

Clay received a great many letters of condolence after his defeat and the excerpts from a few of them which follow will convince one that his power of attraction was unusual indeed, and it is not strange that Lincoln worshipped at his shrine.

"The deplorable result of the late election, has here, as every where, filled the hearts of your Whig friends with pain and mortification, and this feeling has not been con-

fined to the voters only, but has extended itself through all ages, sexes, and conditions, from 'lispering infancy to hoary age'.

"We were not aware, until we saw our anticipations of your success blighted, how strong a hold you had upon our affections, and we now feel that you are President in the hearts of a vast majority of the intelligent and patriotic citizens of the country, where you can never be defeated, and where the poisonous shafts of calumny can never reach you."
P. S. Galpin and Others.

"Dear Sir,—My sense of the public calamity has, for some days, absorbed all emotions and affections of a private or personal character. I have been astonished with the result of the elections. The ways of nations, like those of Providence, are sometimes mysterious and inscrutable; and what our country has just done is of this sort."
William C. Preston

"My Dear Mr. Clay; my chief, my old master, my venerated and beloved friend!

"... I have received the news, just arrived, of the result of the Presidential election. Great God! is it possible! Have our people given this astonishing, this alarming proof of the madness to which party frenzy can carry them!" ...

"Again and again, may God bless and preserve you. I write incoherently: you would not believe my emotion. My head is confused."
Christopher Hughes.

"It is from the gushing out and fullness of our hearts that we say to you that you have been our political idol, and that we esteem you as highly, and love you as dearly as we ever have done—in defeat, more than in victory—we can not say more, how can we say less?"

P. H. Sylvester and Others.

"I well recollect in the family circle while a boy, sitting around the domestic hearth, hearing my father recount your patriotic deeds. One sentence from a speech of yours, 'The colors that float from the mast head should be the credentials of our seamen', was indelibly fixed on my mind. Then judge my deep mortification and disappointment to find the sailors' friend, the master-spirit of the late war, 'the noblest Roman of them all,' rejected by the American people."

John H. Westwood.

"Dear Sir,—At the very moment that I learned the disastrous result of the Presidential contest, I determined to write to you; but I soon perceived that I felt too strongly to express myself with any thing like calmness, and on that account I have delayed till now to console with you on our unexpected misfortune."

A. B. Roman.

"I have never before witnessed such disappointment, distress, and disgust. The feeling seemed to pervade all classes. I have heard men of the opposite faction express their regret at the success of their party. A gray-headed man assured me that he could not restrain his tears. My own child wept bitterly."
Dr. Mercer.

"With other men, to be defeated was to be forgotten; but with him defeat was but a trifling incident, neither changing him nor the world's estimate of him... The spell—the long-enduring spell—with which the souls of men were bound to him is a miracle. Who can compass it?"
A. Lincoln.

WATERBURY

1880

1880

1880

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1880

Lincoln Questionnaire

Name of town Bruceville County Knox State Ind.

Date or dates when Lincoln spoke there Oct. 1844.

Has a marker or monument ever been erected to commemorate his address? _____

If so, when was it dedicated? _____

Is any literature referring to it, or a photograph of it available?

Any further information such as donor, inscription on tablet, or other data of interest would be appreciated.

(over)

The house which Lincoln
slept in is kept up and
in the fall of 1911 they
celebrated its 100th anniversary.
If you will write to Miss
Rebecca Harper you will be
able to get literature and a
picture of the house. She
is one of the owners of the
house. Our library will
appreciate receiving "Lincoln
Lore."

yours truly,
Miss Flossie J. Huffman
Buceville, Ind.

Inspiration of Country.

I shall seldom describe places to which I have been, as I have been so often, and the country was thick as usual, except an inspiring movement. In the fall of 1844 he returned to Spain County, in the midst of his class. He then began to write to a friend about this visit the words "best part of the country is, within itself, as important as any spot on earth".

Letter II. 187

7. 1. 2. 3. 4.

1824

John Fuller Trevelick

Nov 24 1995

1844 John Taylor made
Newspaper 1895
When I came to ^{England} in 1844 a large crowd
came to hear him. The people all knew his speech
and were surprised at his rise in life. He remembers
me and shook hands with me. I remember I was
only as an honest and industrious man.
may be many

July 6th 1881
town ship
No. 1.

I happen that there was an ^{iron ship} chelion at Lilauna
little round log cabin between Backus and the Smith
house. so we set out to see the chelion. There also
made a speech. The subject was Tariffs and Free
trade. I never will forget the last words of this speech
which were "My dear friends give us protection and
in 25 years you will see the goods coming from the States
^(that like your clippers.)



Rockport Journal

Capt. J. W. Brown

Feb 12 1897

There was a boarding school here. The little round log school house. I think it was the old house. I went to school here for a while. I was a student. After the school he went home with Joseph Crawford. He was for a while a student here. On our way we saw the old saw mill where the saws were made. When we got to the house, I saw a small cabinet in the house. I often saw the cabinet from Crawford. It is now in the custom house at E. W. Smith's house.

... to see him again after
that and I could tell by his chop that he
wasn't for now but he was pretty
well. And I didn't want to know him
but he asked me if he could come again
I said yes

He then came right out and asked me
if I could tell what he was drinking, &

NC

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2

3

1844

The first speaker in Indian was at Brearville. The Democrats arranged a rival meeting to the Whigs.

Genl W. W. Carr of Virenius was speaker for the Democrats. Baily loyally answered 'to fighty pretty'. Night made tedious with howling fairs and cow bells. This was a warm reception for Linn to his native state. Febell. 198

Linn spoke at Rock fort, "from door of harness shop" at Springville, another at "Old Carter School House".
Went home with Josiah Crawford after last speech.
Deeply moved by visit, inspected everything
during whole.

1844 visit

1844.

Spoke in Gentryville. min 49 - 166.

La Mar

2000

1. Campfire at Rockport
2. Door of Harnes Shop near Gentryville
3. at old Carter School House in the same neighborhood

Lost words " ~~for~~ my fellow citizens I may not live
to see it but give us a protective tariff and we will
have the greatest country the sun ever shone upon.

1844 Laureville

Lincoln came to Laureville and for a political address
stayed all night with Major Bruce, house still standing where
he stayed. Very spot where Lincoln was assisting to mount
his horse is shown. He spoke at the old school house
spot pointed out.

1841 Lincoln must have gone by Rockford on way
from for Joshua Speer at Laureville

Colt

was sent to William Johnston's house from which he was
by his visit to his old home in the fall of 1844. The first
was remembrance of his childhood home. The scene was evoked
by a man who had known as a boy, and still remained.
He evidently sent a kind cable to his father who was
probably called "the Bear Hunt" which he had mentioned in a
previous letter. (Letter II 191)

Rockport Journal

James C. Vearl,

Rockport, Maine

At the time I was writing the above paper, I
had heard that Mr. Vearl was to speak at
Rockport that night. The name was slightly familiar,
and I associated it with a country way that had been
in the county a number of years ago. That evening a
crowd assembled at the town house and gathered
about a long fire place in each end of the room.
In a short time the speaker entered, well introduced by
a few and ascended the stand. His appearance
was striking, his voice high
and speaking, and he sang some of that certain
dignity which clothes the state orators when, I hope,
heard in vain. His language for a job was good. But
soon I was struck by his manner of speaking.
The principal issue was the tariff given then beaten
as then as a gold tie. He played things in a new
light, my faith became interested. In an hour
his manner brightened and at its close I thought of the most
memorable speech I had ever heard and I think so to day.

Vearl was a delight to behold in conversation. In language
he was inclined to support the tariff. His dissection
of the tariff had no chance, neither had the tariff
caused the other. In fact, it was a good thing
that it was so. I think so to day.

Through I believe that was the reason

James C. Vearl, Sept 12, 1877

1844 April

Lincoln Bolcher Speech at Buwells
Vernon Jan Feb. 11 1922
Clifford Vernon Library

Buwells 9 miles W of Vernon.

One evening in fall of 1844 two strangers rode up to the
tavern at Buwells and asked for a night's lodging
of Mayor William Buwells a distinguished person
of war of 1812 property of 1844

Abner J. Ellis, lawyer and mayor of Vernon, &
Abner Liner the town justice.

Buwells a strong whig center only one democrat found them
Popular seven weeks before that Liner was to speak.

Spoke in old Buwells building used as school house and
Liner opposite when Church Church near St. James.

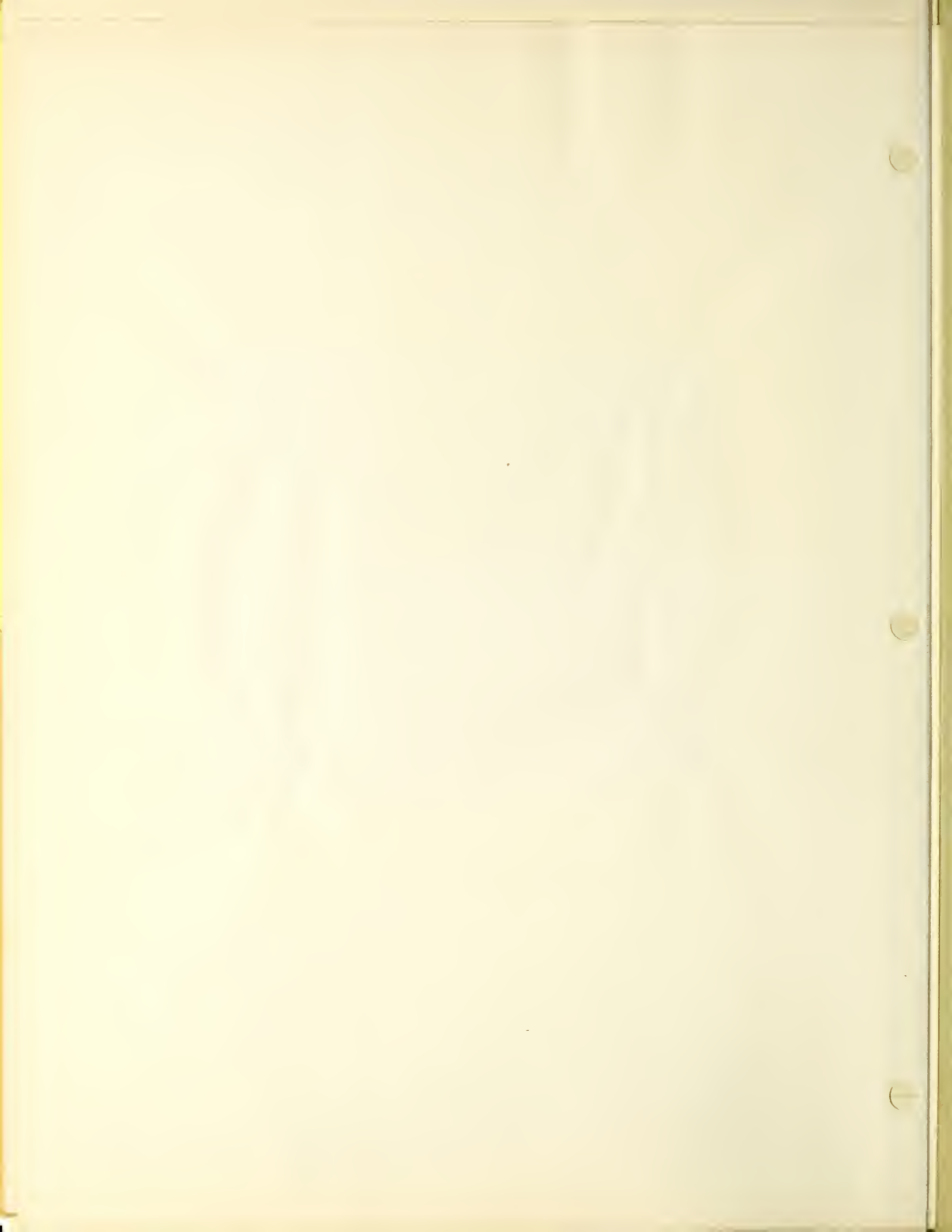
Democrats win by staying a week's party with a
Mr. Carr of Vernon as speaker who spoke for a
week.



THE CARTER SCHOOLHOUSE PRECINCT, INDIANA, WHERE LINCOLN RENEWED ACQUAINTANCE WITH OLD NEIGHBORS IN 1844.



SCHOOLHOUSE AT BRUCEVILLE, INDIANA, WHERE LINCOLN SPOKE FOR CLAY IN 1844.



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